

REMARKS

Pursuant to our teleconference with the Examiner on August 23, 2004, Applicant elects the invention of Group I, claims 1-9 and 19, with traverse. The grounds for traversal are that examination of all of the groups would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. The non-elected claims share several common features with the elected claims, and a search for the three groups would likely overlap. For this reason, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claim 19, and allowability of claim 4.

Claims 1-2, 5, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the publication "WebMate" ("WebMate: A Personal Agent for Browsing and Searching," Chen et al., Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents, May 1998, NY, USA, ACM Press, pages 132-139). Applicant traverses the rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose (or suggest) a document search unit which includes a search executing unit that searches for similar documents in a database on a search side based on the keyword formed by the document search unit and notifies the search requesting source of a search result.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to include a portion of the subject matter of claim 4. Amended claim 1 now recites, *inter alia*, that said document search unit comprises a search executing unit which searches for similar documents by searching the search database by using said keyword and notifies the search requesting source of a

search result. WebMate does not disclose obtaining a search result by searching a database. The search target of WebMate is not documents in the database, but instead Web pages existing on the Internet. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claim 1 and its depending claims 2, 5, and 9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over WebMate. The arguments asserted above traversing the §102 rejection are reasserted here. Since claim 6 depends upon claim 1, it necessarily includes all of the features of its associated independent claim plus other additional features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over WebMate in view of the publication, "CiteSeer: An Autonomous Web Agent for Automatic Retrieval and Identification of Interesting Publications," by Bollacker et al., proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents, May 1998, ACM Press, pages 116-123 (hereinafter "CiteSeer"). The arguments asserted above traversing the §102 rejection are reasserted here. In addition, CiteSeer fails to overcome the deficiencies of Webmate. Therefore, since claims 7-8 depend upon claim 1, they necessarily include all of the features of their associated independent claim plus other additional features. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 7-8 is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over WebMate, and further in view of Eichstaedt (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,085). Applicant

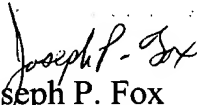
traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §102 rejection, and because the Eichstaedt reference fails to disclose or suggest a document search unit which includes a search executing unit that searches for similar documents in a database on a search side based on the keyword formed by the document search unit, and that further notifies the search requesting source of a search result. Since claim 3 depends upon claim 1, it necessarily includes all of the features of its associated independent claim plus other additional features. For these reasons, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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